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|---|------------------|---|--|---|---|--------------|--------------|----------|--------------|
|  <p>United States Environmental Protection Agency Washington, DC 20460</p> <p>Interagency Agreement/ Amendment</p> <p>Part 1 - General Information</p> | | 1. EPA IA Identification Number DW-12-92359001 - 0 | | 2. Funding Location by Region EPA R5 | | | | | |
| | | 3. Other Agency IA ID Number (if known) | | 4. Awarding Office IASSC East | | | | | |
| | | 5. Type of Action New | | 6. IA Specialist: Lenore Connell 202-564-5343 Connell.Lenore@epamail.epa.gov | | | | | |
| 7. Name and Address of EPA Organization US Environmental Protection Agency IASSC East 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Mail code 3903R Washington, DC 20460 | | | 8. Name and Address of Other Agency Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250 | | | | | | |
| 9. DUNS: 029128894 | | 10. BETC: DISB | | 11. DUNS: 520852695 | | | | | |
| 12. BETC: COLL | | | | | | | | | |
| 13. Project Title and Description NRCS Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Projects for FY 2012 To provide funding to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to help implement the priorities of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Specifically, this IA will help complete development of the GLRI Action Plan (2010-2014) and implement certain priority programs, projects, and activities to protect, restore and maintain the Great Lakes ecosystem. This IA will also support the participation of NRCS staff in Lakewide Management Planning activities. | | | | | | | | | |
| 14. EPA Project Officer (Name, Address, Telephone Number) Daniel Oriordan 77 West Jackson Blvd. (G-17J) Chicago, IL 60604-3507 312-886-7981 E-Mail: Oriordan.Daniel@epamail.epa.gov FAX: 312-886-6869 | | | 15. Other Agency Project Officer (Name, Address, Telephone) Tom Krapf (or Great Lakes Coordinator) 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 6007 Washington, DC 20250 202-690-1588 E-Mail: tom.krapf@wi.usda.gov FAX: 202-720-2998 | | | | | | |
| 16. Project Period: 04/02/2012 to 12/31/2015 | | | 17. Budget Period: 04/02/2012 to 04/30/2015 | | | | | | |
| 18. Scope of Work (See Attachment) See attached Scope of Work. | | | | | | | | | |
| 19. Employer/Tax ID No. 520852695 | | 20. CAGE No: 347A4 | | 21. ALC: 68-01-0727 | | | | | |
| 22. Statutory Authority for Transfer of Funds and Interagency Agreement Clean Water Act: Sec. 104(b)(2); Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012; Public Law 112-74 | | | | | 23. Other Agency Type Federal Agency | | | | |
| 24. Revise Reimbursable Funds and Direct Fund Cites (only complete if applicable) | | | | | | | | | |
| | Previous Funding | This Action | | Amended Total | | | | | |
| Revise Reimbursable (in-house) | | | | 0 | | | | | |
| Direct Fund Cite (contractor) | | | | 0 | | | | | |
| Total | | | | 0 | | | | | |
| | Funds | Previous Amount | Amount This Action | Total Amount | | | | | |
| 25. EPA Amount | | | \$24,185,426 | \$24,185,426 | | | | | |
| 26. EPA In-Kind Amount | | | | \$0 | | | | | |
| 27. Other Agency Amount | | | \$0 | \$0 | | | | | |
| 28. Other Agency In-Kind Amount | | | | \$0 | | | | | |
| 29. Total Project Cost | | | \$24,185,426 | \$24,185,426 | | | | | |
| 30. Fiscal Information | | | | | | | | | |
| Treas. Symbol | DCN | FY | Appropriation | Budget Org | PRC | Object Class | Site/Project | Cost Org | Ob/De-Ob Amt |
| 682/30108 | 1205HAX010 | 1213 | B | 05HH0 | 202BJ7XF2 | 2506 | | | 467,447 |
| 682/30108 | 1205HAX010 | 1213 | B | 05HH0 | 202BJ7XF3 | 2506 | | | 13,534,881 |
| 682/30108 | 1205HAX010 | 1213 | B | 05HH0 | 202BJ7XF5 | 2506 | | | 183,098 |

| Fiscal (Continued) | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------|------|---------------|------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| Treas. Symbol | DCN | FY | Appropriation | Budget Org | PRC | Object Class | Site/Project | Cost Org | Ob/De-Ob Amt |
| 682/30108 | 1205HAX010 | 1213 | B | 05HH3 | 202BJ7XF3 | 2506 | | | 10,000,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | 24,185,426 |

EPA Form 1610-1 (Rev. 11-09). Previous editions are obsolete.

| Part II - Approved Budget | | | | EPA IAG Identification Number DW-12-92359001 - 0 |
|--|--|-------------------------------|---|---|
| 31. Budget Categories | Itemization of All Previous Actions | Itemization of This Action | In-Kind Itemization of This Action | Itemization of Total Project Cost to Date |
| (a) Personnel | | \$5,509,933 | | \$5,509,933 |
| (b) Fringe Benefits | | \$1,689,713 | | \$1,689,713 |
| (c) Travel | | \$146,932 | | \$146,932 |
| (d) Equipment | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| (e) Supplies | | \$0 | | \$0 |
| (f) Procurement / Assistance | | \$16,813,848 | | \$16,813,848 |
| (g) Construction | | | | \$0 |
| (h) Other | | \$25,000 | | \$25,000 |
| (i) Total Direct Charges | \$0 | \$24,185,426 | \$0 | \$24,185,426 |
| (j) Indirect Costs: | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 |
| Charged - Amount Rate: % Base: \$ Not Charged: . Funds-Out: Not charged by Other Agency Estimate by other Agency Amount \$ | | | | |
| (k) Total (EPA Share 100.00 %) (Other Agency Share 0.00 %) | \$0 | \$24,185,426 | \$0 | \$24,185,426 |
| 32. How was the IDC Base calculated? | | | | |
| 33. Is equipment authorized to be furnished by EPA or leased, purchased, or rented with EPA funds? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (Identify all equipment costing \$1,000 or more) | | | | |
| 34. Are any of these funds being used on extramural agreements? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | | | |
| Type of Extramural Agreement Contract | | | | |
| Contractor/Recipient Name (if known) | Total Extramural Amount Under This Project | | Percent Funded by EPA (if known) | |
| Various Contractors | 16813848 Total \$ 16,813,848.00 | | 100 | |
| Part III - Funding Methods and Billing Instructions | | | | |
| 35. (Note: EPA Agency Location Code (ALC) - 68010727) | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disbursement Agreement | Request for repayment of actual costs must be itemized on SF 1080 and submitted to the Financial Management Office, Cincinnati, OH 45268-7002: | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Repayment | <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Upon Completion of Work | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advance | Only available for use by Federal agencies on working capital fund or with appropriate justification of need for this type of payment method. Unexpended funds at completion of work will be returned to EPA. Quarterly cost reports will be forwarded to the Financial Management Center, EPA, Cincinnati, OH 45268-7002. | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allocation Transfer-Out | Used to transfer obligational authority or transfer of function between Federal agencies. Must receive prior approval by the Office of Comptroller, Budget Division, Budget Formulation and Control Branch, EPA Hdqtrs. Forward appropriate reports to the Financial Reports and Analysis Branch, Financial Management Division, PM-226F, EPA, Washington, DC 20460. | | | |
| 36. <input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> Repayment <input type="checkbox"/> Advance | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allocation Transfer-In | | | | |
| Other Agency's Billing Address (include ALC or Station Symbol Number) | | | Other Agency's Billing Instructions and Frequency | |

Part IV - Acceptance Conditions

EPA Identification Number

DW-12-92359001 - 0

37. Terms and Conditions, when included, are located at the end of the 1610-1, or as an attachment.

Part V - Offer and Acceptance

Note: A) For Fund-out actions, the agreement/amendment must be signed by the other agency official in duplicate and one original returned to the Grants and IA Management Division for Headquarters agreements or to the appropriate EPA Regional IA administration office within 3 calendar weeks after receipt or within any extension of time that may be granted by EPA. The agreement/amendment must be forwarded to the address cited in item 29 after acceptance signature.

Failure to return the properly executed document within the prescribed time may result in the withdrawal of offer by EPA. Any change to the agreement/amendment by the other agency after the document is signed by the EPA Award Official, which the Award Official determines to materially alter the agreement/amendment, shall void the agreement/amendment.

B) For Funds-In actions, the other agency will initiate the action and forward two original agreements/amendments to the appropriate EPA program office for signature. The agreements/amendments will then be forwarded to the appropriate EPA IA administration office for signature on behalf of the EPA. EPA will return one original copy after acceptance returned to the other agency after acceptance.

EPA IA Administration Office (for administrative assistance)**EPA Program Office (for technical assistance)****38. Organization/Address**

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
IASSC East
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Mail code 3903R
Washington, DC 20460

39. Organization/Address

US Environmental Protection Agency
R5 - Region 5
77 West Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3507

Award Official on Behalf of the Environment Protection Agency

40. Digital signature applied by EPA Award Official | FOR Frank N. Roth - Chief Fellowship IA & SEE Branch
Michelle Messick - AO delegate

Date

04/26/2012

Authorizing Official on Behalf of the Other Agency**41. Signature****Typed Name and Title**

Dave White, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Date

05/18/2012

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Interagency Agreement Scope of Work

AGENCY NAME: USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 6006, Washington, DC 20250
Phone: 202-690-4979
Email: Martin.Lowenfish@wdc.usda.gov

1. INTRODUCTION

Recognizing that the Great Lakes ecosystem is an invaluable resource containing over 20 percent of the world's surface freshwater and providing drinking water to over 40 million people, the Administration, in 2009, announced the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to protect, restore and maintain the Great Lakes ecosystem. In conjunction with 15 other Federal Agencies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will assist the USEPA in implementing certain strategic, priority actions to help achieve the vision of a restored, protected, and sustainable Great Lakes ecosystem.

The purpose of this Interagency Agreement (IA) is to provide funding to NRCS to help implement the priorities of the GLRI. Specifically, this IA will help complete development of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan (Action Plan) and implement certain priority programs, projects, and activities to protect, restore and maintain the Great Lakes ecosystem. This IA will also support the participation of NRCS staff in Lakewide Management Planning activities.

The GLRI Action Plan identifies goals, objectives, measurable ecological targets, and specific actions for five focus areas: NRCS will carry out activities in three of the five Focus Areas, including: Invasive Species; Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution; and Accountability, Education, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication, and Partnerships.

NRCS will carry out the following activities described in the "FY2012 Great Lakes Interagency Funding Guide" by Focus Area. NRCS is carrying out activities in three of the five Focus Areas.

2. BUDGET & PROJECT DETAIL (\$24,185,426)

| Template | Focus | Program | Budget |
|----------|--------|--|--------------|
| 2012-327 | AEMECF | Capacity building support for LaMP activities and projects | \$183,098 |
| 2012-015 | IS | Farm Bill Programs; reducing terrestrial invasive species | \$467,447 |
| 2012-011 | NS | Great Lakes Basin Prgm for Soil Erosion & Sediment Control | \$2,338,081 |
| 2012-014 | NS | Farm Bill Programs for reducing Ag Nonpoint Source Loading | \$10,886,962 |
| 2012-016 | NS | Farm Bill Programs for Habitat and Wildlife Protection | \$309,838 |
| 2012-371 | NS | Maumee River/Blanchard - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff | \$3,500,000 |
| 2012-372 | NS | Green Bay Fox River/Lower Fox - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff | \$3,900,000 |
| 2012-373 | NS | Saginaw River/Flint - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff | \$2,600,000 |

3. NARRATIVE SCOPE OF WORK:

INVASIVE SPECIES

Project title: Farm Bill Programs for reducing terrestrial invasive species. (Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)) (2012-015)

Funding amount: \$392,660

Authority for work: 16 U.S.C. Section 3801 et seq.:

- (i) Food Security Act of 1985, Public Law 99-198, Title XII
- (ii) Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Public Law 104-127
- (iii) Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Public Law 107-171
- (iv) Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-246

Description of work: Through EQIP, a voluntary conservation program, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers and nonindustrial private forest landowners (NIPFS) to address resource concerns, using methods including the control of terrestrial invasive species in targeted areas of concern. This financial assistance will promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals, optimize environmental benefits, and help farmers and ranchers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations.

Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) develops contracts with agricultural producers to implement conservation practices to manage terrestrial invasive species in targeted areas of concern. Payments are made to producers after the conservation practices are completed according to NRCS specifications. Participants may receive payments for incurred costs and for income foregone. EQIP provides payments up to 75 percent for incurred costs and 100% for income foregone for certain conservation practices and activities. Historically underserved producers (limited resource farmers/ranchers, beginning farmers/ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers) may receive payments up to 90 percent for incurred costs and 100% of income foregone. Farmers, ranchers, and NIPFS may elect to use a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) for technical assistance needed for certain eligible activities and services. Persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production and owners of non-industrial private forestland are eligible for the program.

Great Lakes Action Plan Measure of Progress:

Contributes to the following Long Term Goals under Focus Area 2: Invasive Species in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Goal 5: An effective, efficient and environmentally sound program of integrated pest management for invasive species is developed and implemented, including program functions of containment, eradication, control and mitigation.

Contributes to the following Interim Objectives under Focus Area 2: Invasive Species in the GLRI Action Plan:

- By 2014, invasive species populations within the Great Lakes Ecosystem will have been controlled and reduced, as measured in populations controlled to a target level in 6,500 acres of managed area and by removing 5,000 pounds of invasive species from the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Contributes to the following Measures of Progress under Focus Area 2: Invasive Species in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Acres managed for populations of invasive species controlled to a target level

Approximately 800 acres of practices for invasive species management and control will be installed during the project period

Project title: Farm Bill Programs for reducing terrestrial invasive species (Through Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)) 2012-015)

The purpose of the Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA) is to provide technical assistance supported by science-based technology and tools to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources. Through the CTA Program NRCS will provide technical assistance including conservation planning, practice design, and outreach activities.

Note: CTA will be used for outreach and to develop conservation plans, prior to contracting conservation practice implementation through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). This CTA program is not shown in the Interagency Funding Guide for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Funding amount: \$74,787

Authority for work: Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936; 16 U.S.C. 590a; and 7 U.S.C. 6962a.

Description of work: The CTA Program provides clients with proven conservation technology and the delivery system needed to achieve the benefits of a healthy and productive landscape. The primary purposes of the CTA Program are to:

- Reduce soil loss from erosion
- Solve soil, water quality, water conservation, air quality, and agricultural waste management problems
- Reduce potential damage caused by excess water and sedimentation or drought
- Enhance the quality of fish and wildlife habitat
- Improve the long term sustainability of all lands, including cropland, forestland, grazing lands, coastal lands, and developed and/or developing lands
- Assist others in facilitating changes in land use as needed for natural resource protection and sustainability

Through the CTA Program, NRCS provides conservation technical assistance to individuals and groups of decision makers, communities, conservation districts and other units of State and local government, tribes, and other Federal agencies, to help them voluntarily conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources. NRCS staff helps clients by providing technical assistance supported by science-based technology and the tools available to manage their land. This assistance is based on voluntary cooperation and recognizes the client's needs and assists each in achieving a sustainable natural resource system that contributes to healthy land.

Most technical assistance provided by NRCS leads to the voluntary development of a conservation plan - a resource assessment of the land that allows the client to determine the opportunities for using the resources under their care and how they may achieve their goals. A successful plan prepares landowners for participation in conservation practice implementation through NRCS Farm Bill programs.

Based on the conservation plans developed, NRCS provides the guidance and assistance needed to design, layout and install approved conservation practices. There are over 167 approved conservation practices designed to fit both the resource needs and the land user's objectives.

NRCS employees will work with landowners and agriculture producers to develop conservation plans to identify or implement conservation practices needed to address resource concerns. Clients may then choose to install the conservation practices through NRCS Programs funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Great Lakes Action Plan Measure of Progress:

Contributes to the following Long Term Goals under Focus Area 2: Invasive Species in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Goal 5: An effective, efficient and environmentally sound program of integrated pest management for invasive species is developed and implemented, including program functions of containment, eradication, control and mitigation.

Contributes to the following Interim Objectives under Focus Area 2: Invasive Species in the GLRI Action Plan:

- By 2014, invasive species populations within the Great Lakes Ecosystem will have been controlled and reduced, as measured in populations controlled to a target level in 6,500 acres of managed area and by removing 5,000 pounds of invasive species from the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Contributes to the following Measures of Progress under Focus Area 2: Invasive Species in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Other measure not directly accounted for by GLRI Action Plan Measures of Progress
 - Development of conservation plans and capacity building necessary to achieve acreage accomplishments under **Project title:** Farm Bill Programs for reducing terrestrial invasive species. (Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)). (2012-015)

NEARSHORE HEATH AND NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

Project title: Farm Bill Programs for reducing Agricultural Nonpoint Source Loading (Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)). (2012-014)

Funding amount: \$9,606,488

Authority for work: 16 U.S.C. Section 3801 et seq.:

- (i) Food Security Act of 1985, Public Law 99-198, Title XII
- (ii) Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Public Law 104-127
- (iii) Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Public Law 107-171
- (iv) Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-246

Description of work: Through EQIP, a voluntary conservation program, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers and nonindustrial private forest landowners (NIPFS) for the purpose of addressing resource concerns. This financial assistance will promote

agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals, optimize environmental benefits, and help farmers and ranchers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations.

Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) develops contracts with agricultural producers to implement conservation practices to reduce sediment, nutrients, and pesticides in surface runoff waters from agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land in targeted areas of concern. Payments are made to producers after the conservation practices are completed according to NRCS specifications. Participants may receive payments for incurred costs and for income foregone. EQIP provides payments up to 75 percent for incurred costs and 100% for income foregone for certain conservation practices and activities. Historically underserved producers (limited resource farmers/ranchers, beginning farmers/ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers) may receive payments up to 90 percent for incurred costs and 100% of income foregone. Farmers, ranchers, and NIPFS may elect to use a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) for technical assistance needed for certain eligible activities and services. Persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production and owners of nonindustrial private forestland are eligible for the program.

Great Lakes Action Plan Measure of Progress:

Contributes to the following Long Term Goals under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Goal 5: A significant reduction in soil erosion and the loading of sediments, nutrients and pollutants into tributaries is achieved through greater implementation of practices that conserve soil and slow overland flow in agriculture, forestry and urban areas.

Contributes to the following Objectives under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- By 2014, remediation, restoration and conservation actions in at least one targeted watershed in the Great Lake Basin will control erosion, reduce nutrient runoff from urban and agricultural sources, and improve habitat to protect nearshore aquatic resources.
- By 2014, a measurable decrease will be achieved in soluble phosphorus loading from 2008 levels in targeted tributaries.
- By 2014, the area of agricultural lands in conservation and/or utilizing conservation tillage practices will increase by 50 percent over 2008 levels.

Contributes to the following Measures of Progress under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Acres in the Great Lakes watershed with USDA conservation practices implemented to reduce erosion, nutrients, and/or pesticide loadings under Farm Bill Programs

Approximately [REDACTED] in the Great Lakes watersheds are projected to adopt USDA conservation practices to reduce erosion, nutrients, and/or pesticide loadings under Farm Bill Programs each fiscal year during the project period.

[REDACTED]

Over time, this project is also expected to advance two additional GLRI Action Plan Measures including 1) Five-year average annual loadings of soluble reactive phosphorus from tributaries draining targeted watersheds and 2) Annual volume of sediment deposition in defined harbor areas in targeted areas (cubic yards). No quantitative projections are

Comment [c1]: By how much are they going to help achieve this MOP? If they can't articulate it, then delete.

Comment [c2]: See Comment 1.

available at this time. As appropriate, NRCS will determine (e.g., model using the STEP-L program) phosphorus and sediment reductions attributable to acreage adopting USDA conservation programs.

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Project title: Farm Bill Programs for reducing Agricultural Nonpoint Source Loading (Through Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA)) (2012-014)

The purpose of the Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA) is to provide technical assistance supported by science-based technology and tools to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources. Through the CTA Program NRCS will provide technical assistance including conservation planning, practice design, and outreach activities.

Note: CTA will be used for outreach and to develop conservation plans, prior to contracting conservation practice implementation through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). This CTA program is not shown in the Interagency Funding Guide for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Funding amount: \$1,280,474

Authority for work: Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936, 16 U.S.C. 590a; and 7 U.S.C. 6962a.

Description of work: The CTA Program provides clients with proven conservation technology and the delivery system needed to achieve the benefits of a healthy and productive landscape. The primary purposes of the CTA Program are to:

- Reduce soil loss from erosion
- Solve soil, water quality, water conservation, air quality, and agricultural waste management problems
- Reduce potential damage caused by excess water and sedimentation or drought
- Enhance the quality of fish and wildlife habitat
- Improve the long term sustainability of all lands, including cropland, forestland, grazing lands, coastal lands, and developed and/or developing lands
- Assist others in facilitating changes in land use as needed for natural resource protection and sustainability

Through the CTA Program, NRCS provides conservation technical assistance to individuals and groups of decision makers, communities, conservation districts and other units of State and local government, tribes, and other Federal agencies, to help them voluntarily conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources. NRCS staff helps clients by providing technical assistance supported by science-based technology and the tools available to manage their land. This assistance is based on voluntary cooperation and recognizes the client's needs and assists each in achieving a sustainable natural resource system that contributes to healthy land.

Most technical assistance provided by NRCS leads to the voluntary development of a conservation plan - a resource assessment of the land that allows the client to determine the opportunities for using the resources under their care and how they may achieve their goals. A successful plan prepares landowners for participation in conservation practice implementation through NRCS Farm Bill programs.

Based on the conservation plans developed, NRCS provides the guidance and assistance needed

to design, layout and install approved conservation practices. There are over 167 approved conservation practices designed to fit both the resource needs and the land user's objectives.

NRCS employees will work with landowners and agriculture producers to develop conservation plans to identify or implement conservation practices needed to address resource concerns. Clients may then choose to install the conservation practices through NRCS Programs funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Great Lakes Action Plan Measure of Progress:

Contributes to the following Long Term Goals under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Goal 2: Land use, recreation and economic activities are managed to ensure that nearshore aquatic, wetland and upland habitats will sustain the health and function of natural communities.
- Goal 5: A significant reduction in soil erosion and the loading of sediments, nutrients and pollutants into tributaries is achieved through greater implementation of practices that conserve soil and slow overland flow in agriculture, forestry and urban areas.
- Goal 6: High quality, timely and relevant information about the nearshore areas is readily available to assess progress and to inform enlightened decision making.

Contributes to the following Objectives under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- By 2014, remediation, restoration and conservation actions in at least one targeted watershed in the Great Lake Basin will control erosion, reduce nutrient runoff from urban and agricultural sources, and improve habitat to protect nearshore aquatic resources.
- By 2014, a measurable decrease will be achieved in soluble phosphorus loading from 2008 levels in targeted tributaries.
- By 2014, the area of agricultural lands in conservation and/or utilizing conservation tillage practices will increase by 50 percent over 2008 levels.

Contributes to the following Measures of Progress under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Other measure not directly accounted for by GLRI Action Plan Measures of Progress
 - *Development of conservation plans and capacity building necessary to achieve acreage accomplishments under **Project Title: Farm Bill Programs for reducing Agricultural Nonpoint Source Loading (Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)). (2012-014)***

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Project title: Green Bay Fox River/Lower Fox - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff (Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)) (2012-372)

Funding amount: \$3,308,400

Authority for work: 16 U.S.C. Section 3801 et seq.:

- (i) Food Security Act of 1985, Public Law 99-198, Title XII
- (ii) Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Public Law 104-127
- (iii) Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Public Law 107-171
- (iv) Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-246

Description of work: Through EQIP, a voluntary conservation program, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers and nonindustrial private forest landowners (NIPFS) for the purpose of addressing resource concerns. This financial assistance will promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals, optimize environmental benefits, and help farmers and ranchers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations. Specifically, financial assistance will be used to assist producers in implementing conservation practices to reduce sediment, nutrients, and pesticides in surface runoff waters from agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land in targeted areas of concern.

To further enhance and target efforts to reduce phosphorus, the Upper Duck Creek (HUC 040302040102) and Upper East River (HUC 040302040301) were selected as priority watersheds. NRCS will use GLRI funds to provide financial and technical assistance to private land owners and producers who voluntarily implement individual conservation practices and/or integrated conservation systems (i.e., suites of individual practices) necessary to efficiently reduce agricultural sources of nonpoint source phosphorus. Funding under GLRI for financial assistance for this project is intended to be wholly obligated and expended only within the Upper Duck Creek and Upper East River. Additions and substitutions of identified 12 digit watersheds within the 8 digit focus area may result as adaptive management of the program implementation occurs. These changes will be done in consultation with EPA GLRI staff.

Funding under GLRI for technical assistance for this project is expected to largely support conservation planning and practice implementation within the Upper Duck Creek and Upper East River.

The additional focused approach at the watershed level will further accelerate the implementation of conservation practices in the Upper Duck Creek and Upper East River, contributing to target reductions of phosphorus loadings identified in the action plan.

Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) develops contracts with agricultural producers to implement conservation practices designed to address natural resource concerns. Payments are made to producers after the conservation practices are completed according to NRCS specifications. Participants may receive payments for incurred costs and for income foregone. EQIP provides payments up to 75 percent for incurred costs and 100% for income foregone for certain conservation practices and activities. Historically underserved producers (limited resource farmers/ranchers, beginning farmers/ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers) may receive payments up to 90 percent for incurred costs and 100% of income foregone. Farmers, ranchers, and NIPFS may elect to use a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) for technical assistance needed for certain eligible activities and services. Persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production and owners of nonindustrial private forestland are eligible for the program.

Great Lakes Action Plan Measure of Progress:

Contributes to the following Long Term Goals under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Goal 5: A significant reduction in soil erosion and the loading of sediments, nutrients and pollutants into tributaries is achieved through greater implementation of practices that conserve soil and slow overland flow in agriculture, forestry and urban areas.

Contributes to the following Objectives under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- By 2014, remediation, restoration and conservation actions in at least one targeted watershed in the Great Lake Basin will control erosion, reduce nutrient runoff from urban and agricultural sources, and improve habitat to protect nearshore aquatic resources.

- By 2014, a measurable decrease will be achieved in soluble phosphorus loading from 2008 levels in targeted tributaries.
- By 2014, the area of agricultural lands in conservation and/or utilizing conservation tillage practices will increase by 50 percent over 2008 levels.

Contributes to the following Measures of Progress under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Acres in the Great Lakes watershed with USDA conservation practices implemented to reduce erosion, nutrients, and/or pesticide loadings under Farm Bill Programs

Approximately [REDACTED] in the Great Lakes watersheds are projected to adopt USDA conservation practices to reduce erosion, nutrients, and/or pesticide loadings under Farm Bill Programs each fiscal year during the project period.

[REDACTED]

Over time, this project is also expected to advance two additional GLRI Action Plan Measures including 1) Five-year average annual loadings of soluble reactive phosphorus from tributaries draining targeted watersheds and 2) Annual volume of sediment deposition in defined harbor areas in targeted areas (cubic yards). No quantitative projections are available at this time. As appropriate, NRCS will determine (e.g., model using the STEP-L program) phosphorus and sediment reductions attributable to acreage adopting USDA conservation programs.

Comment [c3]: By how much are they going to help achieve this MOP? If they can't articulate it, then delete.

Comment [c4]: See Comment 1.

Project title: Green Bay Fox River/Lower Fox - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff (Through Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA)) (2012-372)

The purpose of the Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA) is to provide technical assistance supported by science-based technology and tools to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources. Through the CTA Program NRCS will provide technical assistance including conservation planning, practice design, and outreach activities.

Note: CTA will be used for outreach and to develop conservation plans, prior to contracting conservation practice implementation through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). This CTA program is not shown in the Interagency Funding Guide for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Funding amount: \$591,600

Authority for work: Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936; 16 U.S.C. 590a; and 7 U.S.C. 6962a.

Description of work: The CTA Program provides clients with proven conservation technology and the delivery system needed to achieve the benefits of a healthy and productive landscape. The primary purposes of the CTA Program are to:

- Reduce soil loss from erosion

- Solve soil, water quality, water conservation, air quality, and agricultural waste management problems
- Reduce potential damage caused by excess water and sedimentation or drought
- Enhance the quality of fish and wildlife habitat
- Improve the long term sustainability of all lands, including cropland, forestland, grazing lands, coastal lands, and developed and/or developing lands
- Assist others in facilitating changes in land use as needed for natural resource protection and sustainability

Through the CTA Program, NRCS provides conservation technical assistance to individuals and groups of decision makers, communities, conservation districts and other units of State and local government, tribes, and other Federal agencies, to help them voluntarily conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources.

This assistance will be largely targeted toward the Upper Duck Creek (HUC 040302040102) and Upper East River (HUC 040302040301). Additions and substitutions of identified 12 digit watersheds within the 8 digit focus area may result as adaptive management of the program implementation occurs. These changes will be done in consultation with EPA GLRI staff.

NRCS staff helps clients by providing technical assistance supported by science-based technology and the tools available to manage their land. This assistance is based on voluntary cooperation and recognizes the client's needs and assists each in achieving a sustainable natural resource system that contributes to healthy land.

Most technical assistance provided by NRCS leads to the voluntary development of a conservation plan - a resource assessment of the land that allows the client to determine the opportunities for using the resources under their care and how they may achieve their goals. A successful plan prepares landowners for participation in conservation practice implementation through NRCS Farm Bill programs.

Based on the conservation plans developed, NRCS provides the guidance and assistance needed to design, layout and install approved conservation practices. There are over 167 approved conservation practices designed to fit both the resource needs and the land user's objectives.

NRCS employees will work with landowners and agriculture producers to develop conservation plans in the Upper Duck Creek and Upper East River to identify or implement conservation practices needed to address resource concerns. Clients may then choose to install the conservation practices through NRCS Programs funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Great Lakes Action Plan Measure of Progress:

Contributes to the following Long Term Goals under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Goal 2: Land use, recreation and economic activities are managed to ensure that nearshore aquatic, wetland and upland habitats will sustain the health and function of natural communities.
- Goal 5: A significant reduction in soil erosion and the loading of sediments, nutrients and pollutants into tributaries is achieved through greater implementation of practices that conserve soil and slow overland flow in agriculture, forestry and urban areas.
- Goal 6: High quality, timely and relevant information about the nearshore areas is readily available to assess progress and to inform enlightened decision making.

Contributes to the following Objectives under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- By 2014, remediation, restoration and conservation actions in at least one targeted watershed in the Great Lake Basin will control erosion, reduce nutrient runoff from urban and agricultural sources, and improve habitat to protect nearshore aquatic resources.
- By 2014, a measurable decrease will be achieved in soluble phosphorus loading from 2008 levels in targeted tributaries.
- By 2014, the area of agricultural lands in conservation and/or utilizing conservation tillage practices will increase by 50 percent over 2008 levels.

Contributes to the following Measures of Progress under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Other measure not directly accounted for by GLRI Action Plan Measures of Progress
 - *Development of conservation plans and capacity building necessary to achieve acreage accomplishments under **Project title: Green Bay-Fox River/Lower Fox - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff (Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)) (2012-372)***

Project title: Maumee River/Blanchard - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff. (Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)) (2012-371)

Funding amount: \$2,000,000

Authority for work: 16 U.S.C. Section 3801 et seq.

- (i) Food Security Act of 1985, Public Law 99-198, Title XII
- (ii) Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Public Law 104-127
- (iii) Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Public Law 107-171
- (iv) Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-246

Description of work: Through EQIP, a voluntary conservation program, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers and nonindustrial private forest landowners (NIPFS) for the purpose of addressing resource concerns. This financial assistance will promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals, optimize environmental benefits, and help farmers and ranchers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations. Specifically, financial assistance will be used to assist producers in implementing conservation practices to reduce sediment, nutrients, and pesticides in surface runoff waters from agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land in targeted areas of concern

To further enhance and target efforts the Upper Blanchard River Watershed (HUCs 041000080101, 041000080102, 041000080103, 041000080104, 041000080105, 041000080201, 041000080202, 041000080203, 041000080204, 041000080205, 041000080301, and 041000080302) were selected as priority watersheds.

NRCS will use GLRI funding to provide financial and technical assistance to private land owners and producers, who voluntarily implement individual conservation practices and/or integrated conservation systems (i.e., suites of individual practices) necessary to efficiently reduce agricultural sources of nonpoint source phosphorus. Funding under GLRI for financial assistance for this project is intended to be wholly obligated and expended only within the Upper Blanchard River Watershed. Funding under GLRI for technical assistance for this project is expected to largely

support conservation planning and practice implementation within the Upper Blanchard River Watershed. Additions and substitutions of identified 12 digit watersheds within the 8 digit focus area may result as adaptive management of the program implementation occurs. These changes will be done in consultation with EPA GLRI staff.

The additional focused approach at the watershed level will further accelerate the implementation of conservation practices in the Upper Blanchard Watershed, contributing to target reductions of phosphorous loadings identified in the action plan.

Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) develops contracts with agricultural producers to implement conservation practices designed to address natural resource concerns. Payments are made to producers after the conservation practices are completed according to NRCS specifications. Participants may receive payments for incurred costs and for income foregone. EQIP provides payments up to 75 percent for incurred costs and 100% for income foregone for certain conservation practices and activities. Historically underserved producers (limited resource farmers/ranchers, beginning farmers/ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers) may receive payments up to 90 percent for incurred costs and 100% of income foregone. Farmers, ranchers, and NIPFS may elect to use a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) for technical assistance needed for certain eligible activities and services. Persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production and owners of nonindustrial private forestland are eligible for the program.

Great Lakes Action Plan Measure of Progress:

Contributes to the following Long Term Goals under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Goal 5: A significant reduction in soil erosion and the loading of sediments, nutrients and pollutants into tributaries is achieved through greater implementation of practices that conserve soil and slow overland flow in agriculture, forestry and urban areas.

Contributes to the following Objectives under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- By 2014, remediation, restoration and conservation actions in at least one targeted watershed in the Great Lake Basin will control erosion, reduce nutrient runoff from urban and agricultural sources, and improve habitat to protect nearshore aquatic resources.
- By 2014, a measurable decrease will be achieved in soluble phosphorus loading from 2008 levels in targeted tributaries.
- By 2014, the area of agricultural lands in conservation and/or utilizing conservation tillage practices will increase by 50 percent over 2008 levels.

Contributes to the following Measures of Progress under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Acres in the Great Lakes watershed with USDA conservation practices implemented to reduce erosion, nutrients, and/or pesticide loadings under Farm Bill Programs.

Approximately [REDACTED] in the Great Lakes watersheds are projected to adopt USDA conservation practices to reduce erosion, nutrients, and/or pesticide loadings under Farm Bill Programs each fiscal year during the project period.

[REDACTED]

Over time, this project is also expected to advance two additional GLRI Action Plan Measures including 1) Five-year average annual loadings of soluble reactive phosphorus from tributaries draining targeted watersheds and 2) Annual volume of sediment deposition in defined harbor areas in targeted areas (cubic yards). No quantitative projections are available at this time. As appropriate, NRCS will determine (e.g., model using the STEP-L program) phosphorus and sediment reductions attributable to acreage adopting USDA conservation programs.

Comment [c5]: By how much are they going to help achieve this MOP? If they can't articulate it, then delete.

Comment [c6]: See Comment 1.

Project title: Maumee River/Blanchard - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff. (Through Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA)) (2012-371)

The purpose of the Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA) is to provide technical assistance supported by science-based technology and tools to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources. Through the CTA Program NRCS will provide technical assistance including conservation planning, practice design, and outreach activities.

Note: CTA will be used for outreach and to develop conservation plans, prior to contracting conservation practice implementation through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). This CTA program is not shown in the Interagency Funding Guide for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Funding amount: \$1,500,000

Authority for work: Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936; 16 U.S.C. 590a; and 7 U.S.C. 6962a.

Description of work: The CTA Program provides clients with proven conservation technology and the delivery system needed to achieve the benefits of a healthy and productive landscape. The primary purposes of the CTA Program are to:

- Reduce soil loss from erosion
- Solve soil, water quality, water conservation, air quality, and agricultural waste management problems
- Reduce potential damage caused by excess water and sedimentation or drought
- Enhance the quality of fish and wildlife habitat
- Improve the long term sustainability of all lands, including cropland, forestland, grazing lands, coastal lands, and developed and/or developing lands
- Assist others in facilitating changes in land use as needed for natural resource protection and sustainability

Through the CTA Program, NRCS provides conservation technical assistance to individuals and groups of decision makers, communities, conservation districts and other units of State and local government, tribes, and other Federal agencies, to help them voluntarily conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources. NRCS assistance will be largely targeted toward the Upper Blanchard River (HUCs 041000080101, 041000080102, 041000080103, 041000080104, 041000080105, 041000080201, 041000080202, 041000080203, 041000080204, 041000080205, 041000080301, and 041000080302). Additions and substitutions of identified 12 digit watersheds within the 8 digit focus area may result as adaptive management of the program implementation occurs. These changes will be done in consultation with EPA GLRI staff.

NRCS staff helps clients by providing technical assistance supported by science-based technology and the tools available to manage their land. This assistance is based on voluntary cooperation and recognizes the client's needs and assists each in achieving a sustainable natural resource system that contributes to healthy land.

Most technical assistance provided by NRCS leads to the voluntary development of a conservation plan - a resource assessment of the land that allows the client to determine the opportunities for using the resources under their care and how they may achieve their goals. A successful plan prepares landowners for participation in conservation practice implementation through NRCS Farm Bill programs.

Based on the conservation plans developed, NRCS provides the guidance and assistance needed to design, layout and install approved conservation practices. There are over 167 approved conservation practices designed to fit both the resource needs and the land user's objectives.

NRCS employees will work with landowners and agriculture producers to develop conservation plans in the Upper Blanchard River Watershed to identify or implement conservation practices needed to address resource concerns. Clients may then choose to install the conservation practices through NRCS Programs funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Great Lakes Action Plan Measure of Progress:

Contributes to the following Long Term Goals under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Goal 2: Land use, recreation and economic activities are managed to ensure that nearshore aquatic, wetland and upland habitats will sustain the health and function of natural communities.
- Goal 5: A significant reduction in soil erosion and the loading of sediments, nutrients and pollutants into tributaries is achieved through greater implementation of practices that conserve soil and slow overland flow in agriculture, forestry and urban areas.
- Goal 6: High quality, timely and relevant information about the nearshore areas is readily available to assess progress and to inform enlightened decision making.

Contributes to the following Objectives under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- By 2014, remediation, restoration and conservation actions in at least one targeted watershed in the Great Lake Basin will control erosion, reduce nutrient runoff from urban and agricultural sources, and improve habitat to protect nearshore aquatic resources.
- By 2014, a measurable decrease will be achieved in soluble phosphorus loading from 2008 levels in targeted tributaries.
- By 2014, the area of agricultural lands in conservation and/or utilizing conservation tillage practices will increase by 50 percent over 2008 levels.

Contributes to the following Measures of Progress under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Other measure not directly accounted for by GLRI Action Plan Measures of Progress
 - Development of conservation plans and capacity building necessary to achieve acreage accomplishments under **Project title: Maumee River/Blanchard - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff. (Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)) (2012-371)**

Project title: Saginaw River/Flint - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff (Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)) (2012-373)

Funding amount: \$2,389,600

Authority for work: 16 U.S.C. Section 3801 et seq.:

- (i) Food Security Act of 1985, Public Law 99-198, Title XII
- (ii) Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, Public Law 104-127
- (iii) Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Public Law 107-171
- (iv) Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-246

Description of work: Through EQIP, a voluntary conservation program, NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers and nonindustrial private forest landowners (NIPFS) for the purpose of addressing resource concerns. This financial assistance will promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals, optimize environmental benefits, and help farmers and ranchers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations. Specifically, financial assistance will be used to assist producers in implementing conservation practices to reduce sediment, nutrients, and pesticides in surface runoff waters from agricultural land and nonindustrial private forest land in targeted areas of concern.

To further enhance and target efforts the Kearsley, Swartz and Thread Creeks (HUCs, 040802040301, 040802040302, 040802040303, 040802040304, 040802040305, 040802040306, 040802040307, 040802040404, 040802040405, 040802040406, and 040802040408) were selected as priority watersheds. NRCS will use GLRI funding to provide financial and technical assistance to private land owners and producers, who voluntarily implement individual conservation practices and/or integrated conservation systems (i.e., suites of individual practices) necessary to efficiently reduce agricultural sources of nonpoint source phosphorus.

Funding under GLRI for financial assistance for this project is intended to be wholly obligated and expended only within these watersheds. Funding under GLRI for technical assistance for this project is expected to largely support conservation planning and practice implementation within Kearsley, Swartz and Thread Creeks. Additions and substitutions of identified 12 digit watersheds within the 8 digit focus area may result as adaptive management of the program implementation occurs. These changes will be done in consultation with EPA GLRI staff.

The additional focused approach at the watershed level will further accelerate the implementation of conservation practices in the Kearsley, Swartz and Thread Creeks, contributing to target reductions of phosphorous loadings identified in the action plan.

Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) develops contracts with agricultural producers to implement conservation practices designed to address natural resource concerns. Payments are made to producers after the conservation practices are completed according to NRCS specifications. Participants may receive payments for incurred costs and for income foregone. EQIP provides payments up to 75 percent for incurred costs and 100% for income foregone for certain conservation practices and activities. Historically underserved producers (limited resource farmers/ranchers, beginning farmers/ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers) may receive payments up to 90 percent for incurred costs and 100% of income foregone. Farmers, ranchers, and NIPFS may elect to use a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) for technical assistance needed for certain eligible activities and services. Persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production and owners of nonindustrial private forestland are eligible for the program.

Great Lakes Action Plan Measure of Progress:

Contributes to the following Long Term Goals under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Goal 5: A significant reduction in soil erosion and the loading of sediments, nutrients and pollutants into tributaries is achieved through greater implementation of practices that conserve soil and slow overland flow in agriculture, forestry and urban areas.

Contributes to the following Objectives under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- By 2014, remediation, restoration and conservation actions in at least one targeted watershed in the Great Lake Basin will control erosion, reduce nutrient runoff from urban and agricultural sources, and improve habitat to protect nearshore aquatic resources.
- By 2014, a measurable decrease will be achieved in soluble phosphorus loading from 2008 levels in targeted tributaries.
- By 2014, the area of agricultural lands in conservation and/or utilizing conservation tillage practices will increase by 50 percent over 2008 levels.

Contributes to the following Measures of Progress under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Acres in the Great Lakes watershed with USDA conservation practices implemented to reduce erosion, nutrients, and/or pesticide loadings under Farm Bill Programs:

Approximately [REDACTED] in the Great Lakes watersheds are projected to adopt USDA conservation practices to reduce erosion, nutrients, and/or pesticide loadings under Farm Bill Programs each fiscal year during the project period.

[REDACTED]

Over time, this project is also expected to advance two additional GLRI Action Plan Measures including 1) Five-year average annual loadings of soluble reactive phosphorus from tributaries draining targeted watersheds and 2) Annual volume of sediment deposition in defined harbor areas in targeted areas (cubic yards). No quantitative projections are available at this time. As appropriate, NRCS will determine (e.g., model using the STEP-L program) phosphorus and sediment reductions attributable to acreage adopting USDA conservation programs.

Project title: Saginaw River/Flint - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff (Through Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA)) (2012-373)

The purpose of the Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA) is to provide technical assistance supported by science-based technology and tools to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources. Through the CTA Program NRCS will provide technical assistance including conservation planning, practice design, and outreach activities.

Note: CTA will be used for outreach and to develop conservation plans, prior to contracting conservation practice implementation through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Comment [c7]: By how much are they going to help achieve this MOP? If they can't articulate it, then delete.

Comment [c8]: See Comment 1.

(EQIP) or Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). This CTA program is not shown in the Interagency Funding Guide for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Funding amount: \$210,400

Authority for work: Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936; 16 U.S.C. 590a; and 7 U.S.C. 6962a.

Description of work: The CTA Program provides clients with proven conservation technology and the delivery system needed to achieve the benefits of a healthy and productive landscape. The primary purposes of the CTA Program are to:

- Reduce soil loss from erosion
- Solve soil, water quality, water conservation, air quality, and agricultural waste management problems
- Reduce potential damage caused by excess water and sedimentation or drought
- Enhance the quality of fish and wildlife habitat
- Improve the long term sustainability of all lands, including cropland, forestland, grazing lands, coastal lands, and developed and/or developing lands
- Assist others in facilitating changes in land use as needed for natural resource protection and sustainability

Through the CTA Program, NRCS provides conservation technical assistance to individuals and groups of decision makers, communities, conservation districts and other units of State and local government, tribes, and other Federal agencies, to help them voluntarily conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources. This assistance will be largely targeted toward Kearsley, Swartz and Thread Creeks (HUCs, 040802040301, 040802040302, 040802040303, 040802040304, 040802040305, 040802040306, 040802040307, 040802040404, 040802040405, 040802040406, and 040802040408). Additions and substitutions of identified 12 digit watersheds within the 8 digit focus area may result as adaptive management of the program implementation occurs. These changes will be done in consultation with EPA GLRI staff.

NRCS staff helps clients in the Kearsley, Swartz and Thread Creeks by providing technical assistance supported by science-based technology and the tools available to manage their land. This assistance is based on voluntary cooperation and recognizes the client's needs and assists each in achieving a sustainable natural resource system that contributes to healthy land.

Most technical assistance provided by NRCS leads to the voluntary development of a conservation plan - a resource assessment of the land that allows the client to determine the opportunities for using the resources under their care and how they may achieve their goals. A successful plan prepares landowners for participation in conservation practice implementation through NRCS Farm Bill programs.

Based on the conservation plans developed, NRCS provides the guidance and assistance needed to design, layout and install approved conservation practices. There are over 167 approved conservation practices designed to fit both the resource needs and the land user's objectives.

NRCS employees will work with landowners and agriculture producers to develop conservation plans to identify or implement conservation practices needed to address resource concerns. Clients may then choose to install the conservation practices through NRCS Programs funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Great Lakes Action Plan Measure of Progress:

Contributes to the following Long Term Goals under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Goal 2: Land use, recreation and economic activities are managed to ensure that nearshore aquatic, wetland and upland habitats will sustain the health and function of natural communities.
- Goal 5: A significant reduction in soil erosion and the loading of sediments, nutrients and pollutants into tributaries is achieved through greater implementation of practices that conserve soil and slow overland flow in agriculture, forestry and urban areas.
- Goal 6: High quality, timely and relevant information about the nearshore areas is readily available to assess progress and to inform enlightened decision making.

Contributes to the following Objectives under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- By 2014, remediation, restoration and conservation actions in at least one targeted watershed in the Great Lake Basin will control erosion, reduce nutrient runoff from urban and agricultural sources, and improve habitat to protect nearshore aquatic resources.
- By 2014, a measurable decrease will be achieved in soluble phosphorus loading from 2008 levels in targeted tributaries.
- By 2014, the area of agricultural lands in conservation and/or utilizing conservation tillage practices will increase by 50 percent over 2008 levels.

Contributes to the following Measures of Progress under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Other measure not directly accounted for by GLRI Action Plan Measures of Progress
 - *Development of conservation plans and capacity building necessary to achieve acreage accomplishments under **Project title: Saginaw River/Flint - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff (Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)) (2012-373)***

Project title: Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion & Sediment Control.

Funding amount: \$2,338,081.

Authority for work: Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936; 16 U.S.C. 590a; and 7 U.S.C. 6962a.

Description of work: To control erosion and sedimentation and to limit the input of associated nutrients and toxic contaminants to the Great Lakes, NRCS will develop a cooperative agreement with the Great Lakes Commission to implement the Erosion and Sediment Control Grants Program to control erosion and sedimentation and to limit the input of associated nutrients to the Great Lakes.

The purpose of this cooperative agreement is for the Great Lakes Commission to provide grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations to control erosion and sedimentation and to limit the input of associated nutrients and toxic contaminants to the Great Lakes.

Great Lakes Action Plan Measure of Progress:

Contributes to the following Long Term Goals under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Goal 5: A significant reduction in soil erosion and the loading of sediments, nutrients and pollutants into tributaries is achieved through greater implementation of practices that conserve soil and slow overland flow in agriculture, forestry and urban areas.

Contributes to the following Objectives under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- By 2014, remediation, restoration and conservation actions in at least one targeted watershed in the Great Lake Basin will control erosion, reduce nutrient runoff from urban and agricultural sources, and improve habitat to protect nearshore aquatic resources.
- By 2014, a measurable decrease will be achieved in soluble phosphorus loading from 2008 levels in targeted tributaries.
- By 2014, the area of agricultural lands in conservation and/or utilizing conservation tillage practices will increase by 50 percent over 2008 levels.

Contributes to the following Measures of Progress under Focus Area 3: Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Annual volume of sediment deposition in defined harbor areas in targeted areas (cubic yards)

Approximately [REDACTED] of sediment deposition is projected to be reduced due to grants awarded by the Great Lakes Commission Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Program

[REDACTED]

Project title: Farm Bill Programs for Habitat and Wildlife Protection (Through Wildlife Quality Incentives Program (WHIP)) (2012-16)

Funding amount: \$309,838

Authority for work: WHIP is reauthorized under Section 1240N of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb-1) as amended by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill). The 2008 Farm Bill extended the authority to the Secretary for carrying out the program during fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

Description of work: WHIP is a voluntary program for conservation-minded landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land, and Indian land. For the purpose of improving nearshore health and to develop and improve wildlife, NRCS through WHIP will provide technical and financial assistance for habitat and wildlife protection and restoration in targeted areas of concern.

Up to 75 percent cost-share assistance will be offered to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat on privately owned land.

Great Lakes Action Plan Measure of Progress:

Contributes to the following Long Term Goals under Focus Area 4: Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Goal 1: Protection and restoration of Great Lakes aquatic and terrestrial habitats, including physical, chemical, and biological processes and ecosystem functions, maintain or improve the conditions of native fish and wildlife.
- Goal 4: High priority actions identified in strategic plans (such as state and federal species management, restoration and recovery plans, Lakewide Management Plans, Remedial Action Plans, and others) are implemented, lead to the achievement of plan goals, and reduce the loss of fish and wildlife and their habitats.
- Goal 5: Development activities are planned and implemented in ways that are sensitive to environmental considerations and compatible with fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Contributes to the following Objectives under Focus Area 4: Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration in the GLRI Action Plan:

- By 2014, 4,500 miles of Great Lakes rivers and tributaries will be reopened and 450 barriers to fish passage will be removed or bypassed.
- By 2014, 97,500 acres of wetlands, wetland-associated uplands, and high priority coastal, upland, urban, and island habitats will be protected, restored or enhanced.

Contributes to the following Measures of Progress under Focus Area 4: Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Number of fish passage barriers removed or bypassed

Approximately 14 fish passage barrier are projected to be removed or bypassed during the project period

- Number of acres of wetlands and wetlands-associated uplands protected, restored, and enhanced

Approximately 234 acres of wetlands and wetland associated uplands will be protected, restored, and enhanced during the project period

- Number of acres of coastal, upland, and island habitats protected, restored, and enhanced

Approximately 84 acres of coastal, upland and island habitat will be protected, restored, and enhanced during the project period

Comment [c9]: See Comment 1

Comment [c10]: See Comment 1

Comment [c11]: See Comment 1

Accountability, Education, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication and Partnerships

Project title: Capacity building support for LaMP activities and projects.

Funding amount: \$183,098

Authority Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1931 16 U.S.C. 590a; and 7 U.S.C.6962a.

Description of work: The Natural Resources Conservation Service will participate in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) programs, processes and activities including the Lakewide Management Plans and Programs (LaMPs), Areas of Concern (AOCs), State of the Lake Ecosystem Conference (SOLEC), Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative (CSMI), and the Binational Toxics Strategy (BTS), as requested. Such activities

shall include, but not be limited to, meetings, conferences, and workshops directly tied to carrying out and implementing the GLRI and GLWQA.

NRCS will participate in the various aspects of the Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, Lake Ontario and Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan and Programs (LaMPs), including the development of LaMP documents and updates, participating in and attending Work Group meetings, attending Task Force meetings as appropriate, developing, preparing and helping to write the 5-year LaMP programs and other updates and documents, incorporation of LaMP goals and objectives in NRCS planning efforts in the lake, and adding capacity to meet the needs and expectations of the EPA for NRCS participation and implementation of the LaMPs for all of the Great Lakes.

NRCS will collaborate with EPA and other members of the Interagency Task Force regarding planning and budgeting activities for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative including participation in Interagency Task Force meetings (as needed) and Regional Working Group meetings (weekly and as needed), development of documents to support budget development, development and updating of information for Congress and the public. This collaboration will include regular updates of an Interagency Funding Guide describing funding opportunities under the Initiative.

NRCS will collaborate with EPA to comply with requirements, including provisions for science review or competition, for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative as expressed in conference and/or committee reports, and as required by statute. Within a reasonable time after appropriations are made and revisions to allocations, the Agency shall update its template

The purpose of this project is to add capacity and advance NRCS participation in the implementation of the LaMPs. NRCS can bring unique skills and tools to the table to protect and restore the Great Lakes. NRCS has a history of working across boundaries with many partners to promote conservation and restoration of ecosystems.

Great Lakes Action Plan Measure of Progress:

Contributes to the following Long Term Goals under Focus Area 5: Accountability, Education, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication, and Partnerships:

- Goal 5: Work under the goals and objectives of the Great Lakes Waterquality Agreement is coordinated between U.S. and Canada through Lakewide Management Plans (LaMP) and other binational processes, programs, and plans.

Contributes to the following Objectives under Focus Area 5: Accountability, Education, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication, and Partnerships:

- By 2012, improved coordination with Canada will take place for programs under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, particularly under the LaMPs, which will result in the achievement of 5-10 priority LaMP goals and actions

Contributes to the following Measures of Progress under Focus Area 4: Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration in the GLRI Action Plan:

- Other measure not directly accounted for by GLRI Action Plan Measures of Progress
 - Support of NRCS staff time and travel necessary to fully participate in the LaMP process across all 5 Great Lakes. Additional support will be provided to a Great Lakes Coordinator who will insure LaMP goals and objectives are incorporated into NRCS planning efforts.

4. COLLABORATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

NRCS will follow current Farm Bill agency policy for collaboration with conservation partners, States, tribes and other entities.

5. FUNDING SUMMARY SPREADSHEET

For each focus area, identify the following budget categories: personnel, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, other, grants, contracts procurement/assistance and indirect cost. Please utilize the EPA provided model funding summary spreadsheet.

DRAFT

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
FY12 Project Funding Summary Spreadsheet
(\$24,185,426)

7/5/2012

| USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------------|--------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Focus Area 1: Toxics Substances and Areas of Concern | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Template Number | Template Name | Personnel | Fringe Benefits | Travel | Equipment | Other | Grants | Contracts | Procurement/ Assistance | Sub-total | Indirect Cost | Total | Indirect Cost Rates |
| n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | 0.00% |
| Sub-total | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Focus Area 2: Invasive Species | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Template Number | Template Name | Personnel | Fringe Benefits | Travel | Equipment | Other | Grants | Contracts | Procurement/ Assistance | Sub-total | Indirect Cost | Total | Indirect Cost Rates |
| 2012-015 | Farm Bill Programs for reducing terrestrial invasive species (Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)) | \$90,339 | \$24,637 | \$2,142 | | | | \$285,542 | \$285,542 | \$382,390 | | \$382,390 | 0.00% |
| 2012-015 | Farm Bill Programs for reducing terrestrial invasive species (Through Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)) | \$53,205 | \$16,541 | \$1,421 | | | | | | \$4,187 | | \$37,787 | 0.00% |
| Sub-total | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Focus Area 3: Habitat and Wildlife Protection | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Template Number | Template Name | Personnel | Fringe Benefits | Travel | Equipment | Other | Grants | Contracts | Procurement/ Assistance | Sub-total | Indirect Cost | Total | Indirect Cost Rates |
| n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | 0.00% |
| Sub-total | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Focus Area 4: Wetlands Health and Sediment Pollution | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Template Number | Template Name | Personnel | Fringe Benefits | Travel | Equipment | Other | Grants | Contracts | Procurement/ Assistance | Sub-total | Indirect Cost | Total | Indirect Cost Rates |
| 2012-014 | Farm Bill Programs for reducing Agricultural Nonpoint Source Loading (Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)) | \$1,948,542 | \$597,859 | \$1,898 | | \$21,261 | | \$8,985,839 | \$8,985,839 | \$9,585,427 | | \$9,585,427 | 0.00% |
| 2012-014 | Farm Bill Programs for reducing Agricultural Nonpoint Source Loading (Through Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA)) | \$860,356 | \$294,509 | \$25,809 | | | | | \$2 | \$1,280,474 | | \$1,280,474 | 0.00% |
| 2012-371 | Maumee River/Blanchard - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff (Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)) | \$139,830 | \$42,881 | \$3,728 | | | | \$1,913,560 | \$1,913,560 | \$2,000,000 | | \$2,000,000 | 0.00% |
| 2012-372 | Green Bay Fox River/Lower Fox - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff (Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)) | \$231,300 | \$70,932 | \$6,168 | | | | \$3,000,000 | \$3,000,000 | \$3,006,400 | | \$3,006,400 | 0.00% |
| 2012-373 | Saginaw River/Hill - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff (Through Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)) | \$166,950 | \$51,198 | \$4,452 | | | | \$2,187,000 | \$2,187,000 | \$2,389,600 | | \$2,389,600 | 0.00% |
| 2012-371 | Maumee River/Blanchard - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff (Through Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA)) | \$1,126,000 | \$345,000 | \$30,000 | | | | | \$0 | \$1,500,000 | | \$1,500,000 | 0.00% |
| 2012-372 | Green Bay Fox River/Lower Fox - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff (Through Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA)) | \$443,700 | \$136,088 | \$11,832 | | | | | \$0 | \$561,600 | | \$561,600 | 0.00% |
| 2012-373 | Saginaw River/Hill - Conservation planning and practice implementation on agricultural land to reduce phosphorus runoff (Through Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA)) | \$157,800 | \$48,392 | \$4,208 | | | \$2,338,081 | | \$2,338,081 | \$2,338,081 | | \$2,338,081 | 0.00% |
| 2012-018 | Wildlife Quality Incentives Program (WHIP) | \$64,508 | \$19,793 | \$1,720 | | | | \$223,827 | \$223,827 | \$309,838 | | \$309,838 | 0.00% |
| Sub-total | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Focus Area 5: Accountability, Education, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication and Partnership | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Template Number | Template Name | Personnel | Fringe Benefits | Travel | Equipment | Other | Grants | Contracts | Procurement/ Assistance | Sub-total | Indirect Cost | Total | Indirect Cost Rates |
| 2012-327 | Capacity building support for LAMP activities and projects. | \$47,462 | \$14,555 | \$1,266 | | | | | \$0 | \$63,283 | | \$63,283 | 0.00% |
| Sub-total | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grand Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AWARD TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | \$5,609,938 | \$1,089,713 | \$146,392 | \$0 | \$25,000 | \$2,339,081 | \$14,476,767 | \$16,813,840 | \$24,185,166 | \$0 | \$24,185,166 | |

